

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action mailed December 14, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicants have amended Claim 1 to correct the typographical error noted in the Office Action, and have amended the Abstract to less than 150 words. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's characterization of the portable computer operations described in U.S. Patent No. 5,854,617 to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee"), and have amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 to further highlight patentable distinctions between the independent claims and Lee. Applicants have amended several of the dependent claims to maintain consistency with the wording of amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 15. Applicants further submit that several of the dependent claims are separately patentable. Reasons supporting patentability of the claims as amended are discussed below.

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 are patentable over Lee

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Lee. As an initial matter, Applicants note that Lee relates to controlling luminescence of a display of a *portable computer*, e.g., a laptop, and does not relate to a *UPS*, i.e., a device commonly known as providing power to external devices coupled thereto. To further highlight distinctions between the claims and Lee, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9 and 15 to recite that the UPS circuit is configured to power a load *external to the UPS*, and that the backlightings *indicate respective states of the UPS*, recitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Lee. For example, Claim 1 now recites:

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS), comprising:
a UPS circuit operative to selectively supply power *to an external load coupled to an output of the UPS* from first and second power sources;
a display operatively coupled to the UPS circuit and operative to display textual and/or graphical information pertaining thereto; and
a backlight circuit coupled to the UPS circuit and operative to provide different backlightings of the display *to indicate respective states of the UPS circuit*.

Claims 9 and 15 have been similarly amended.

As noted above, Lee relates to a portable computer, not a UPS. The power supply circuitry shown in Lee is not configured to provide power to an external load of the device

shown therein, as this is not a function of a portable computer as described in Lee. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Lee does not disclose or suggest the UPSs recited in Claims 1 and 9, or the UPS operations recited in amended Claim 15.

The Office Action asserts that Lee teaches a backlight circuit "operative to provide difference (sic) backlightings of the display response to respective states of the UPS circuit (See column 5, Lines 15-25) in which Lee teaches controlling luminescence levels (backlighting intensities) using the backlight drive circuit (30) (See Column 5, Lines 38-47)." Office Action, p. 3. Applicants agree that Lee does discuss controlling backlighting luminescence, but this control does not involve using respective backlightings *to indicate UPS states*. Rather, Lee describes controlling backlighting to obtain an "optimal luminescence level" (Lee, column 3, lines 54-58), which is later indicated as a level that minimizes power consumption and thereby prolongs battery life (*see* Lee, column 8, lines 29-31). Nowhere does Lee disclose or suggest that backlighting luminescence is used to indicate anything. Accordingly, Lee also does not disclose or suggest "different backlightings of the display to indicate respective states of the UPS circuit," as recited in amended Claim 1, or corresponding recitations of amended Claims 9 and 15.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Lee does not disclose or suggest all of the recitations of independent Claims 1, 9 and 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 9 and 15 are patentable over Lee.

The dependent claims are patentable

Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-22 are patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of the various ones of independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 from which they depend. Applicants further submit that several of the dependent claims are separately patentable.

Claim 3, which stands rejected as anticipated by Lee, recites "wherein the different backlightings comprise at least one of different backlighting intensities and backlighting patterns." Similar recitations are found in Claims 11 and 18. As discussed above, Lee does not disclose or suggest using backlighting to indicate UPS states, much less, using particular backlighting intensities or patterns to indicate UPS states. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 3, 11 and 18 are separately patentable.

Claim 6, which also stands rejected as anticipated by Lee, now recites "wherein the backlight circuit is operative to provide a first backlighting of the display to indicate the UPS circuit powering the load from a primary power source and to provide a second backlighting of the display to indicate the UPS circuit powering the load from a backup power source." Similar recitations are found in Claim 19, which also stands rejected as anticipated by Lee. Along lines discussed above, Lee does not disclose or suggest using backlighting to indicate UPS states, much less the particular UPS states recited in Claims 4 and 19. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 4 and 19 are separately patentable.

Claim 7, which also stands rejected as anticipated by Lee, recites "wherein the backlight circuit is further operative to provide a third backlighting of the display to indicate the UPS circuit detecting an impending failure of the backup power source." Similar recitations are found in Claim 20, which also stands rejected as anticipated by Lee. As with the Claims 4 and 19, Lee simply does not disclose or suggest indicating the particular recited UPS state using backlighting. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 7 and 20 are separately patentable.

Claim 8, which stands rejected as anticipated by Lee, now recites "wherein the backlight circuit is operative to provide a first backlighting of the display to indicate a normal operating state of the UPS circuit, to provide a second backlighting of the display to indicate a cautionary state of the UPS circuit, and to provide a third backlighting of the display to indicate an alarm state of the UPS circuit." Similar recitations are found in amended Claim 21, which also stands rejected as anticipated by Lee. As with the recitations of Claims 6 and 7 discussed above, Lee simply does not teach or suggest using different backlighting to indicate UPS states and, more particularly, the specific UPS states recited in Claims 8 and 20. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 8 and 20 are separately patentable.

Claim 2, which stands rejected as obvious over a combination of Lee and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041605 to Suzuki (hereinafter "Suzuki") now recites "wherein the backlight circuit is operative to backlight the display with respective colors to indicate respective states of the UPS circuit." Claims 10 and 17, which are also rejected based on this same combination of references, now include corresponding recitations. In rejecting these claims, the Office Action concedes that Lee "fails to teach the backlight circuit operative to backlight the display with respective colors responsive to respective states of the

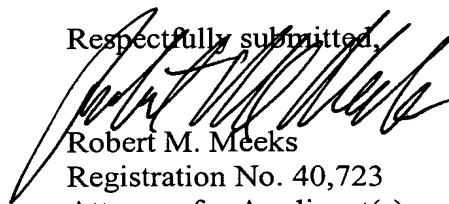
UPS circuit," but asserts that Suzuki provides the missing teaching. Office Action, p. 6. However, Suzuki relates to a display in a *portable terminal*, not a UPS and, therefore, does not disclose or suggest backlighting a display "with respective colors to indicate respective states *of the UPS circuit*," where the UPS circuit is "operative to selectively supply power to an external load coupled to an output of the UPS from first and second power sources." For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 10 and 17 are separately patentable. At least similar reasons support the separate patentability of Claim 14, which also stands rejected based on the combination of Lee and Suzuki.

Claim 12, which stands rejected as obvious over a combination of Lee and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0207404 to Zhang et al. (hereinafter "Zhang"), recites "wherein the backlight circuit is operative to backlight the LCD with a first color to indicate the UPS circuit powering the load from a primary power source and to backlight the LCD with a second color to indicate the UPS circuit powering the load from a backup power source." In rejecting Claim 12, the Office Action concedes that Lee fails to disclose such recitations, but asserts that Zhang provides the missing teachings. Office Action, p. 7. However, the cited material from Zhang (paragraph 27) describes using of a colored LED, not backlighting of a display, as an indicator. Accordingly, the cited combination of references does not disclose or suggest all of the recitations of Claim 12, and for at least this reason, Applicants submit that Claim 12 is separately patentable. At least similar reasons support the separate patentability of Claim 13.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 14, 2006.



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